

Groups I (claims 1-10 and 12-20) and II (claim 11, which depends from claim 1, which in turn depends from claim 12) share at least one feature that renders the claims patentable over WO 94/16134. Independent claim 12, claims a mat for mounting a pollution control element in a casing of a pollution control device, said mat being a non-intumescent mat comprising at least 90% by weight based on the total weight of the mat of chopped **magnesium** aluminium silicate **glass** fibers that have a number average diameter of 5 μm or more and a length of 0.5 to 15 cm, said glass fibers being needle punched or stitch bonded, said mat being free or substantially free of organic binder and being comprised of at least two layers of said chopped magnesium aluminium silicate glass fibers, wherein said at least two layers differ in their magnesium aluminium silicate glass fiber composition. The underlined features, for example, distinguish the claimed invention from WO 94/16134. Although the Office Action references pages 2-4, there is no specific citation of where the WO 94/16134 disclosure supports the conclusion in the Office Action that the Group I and II claims lack the same or corresponding special technical features.

Conclusion

Applicants have elected Group I (claims 1-10 and 12-20). Continued prosecution of this application is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number with questions that can be resolved with a simple teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833

By: _____ /Gregory D. Allen/

Gregory D. Allen, Reg. No.: 35,048
Telephone No.: 651-736-0641